

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

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TAGS: PINT, UR

SUBJ: LITHUANIAN AUTHORITIES NERVOUS ON EVE OF ANNIVERSARY
OF KALANTA IMMOLATION.

1. DURING MAY DAY VISIT TO VILNIUS, EMBASSY MILITARY
ATTACHE WAS TOLD BY LOCAL LITHUANIAN LAWYER THAT PRECAUTIONARY
MEASURES ALREADY UNDERTAKEN IN KANUAS IN ANTICIPATION OF
ANOTHER FLARE- UP OF ANTI- SOVIET DEMONSTRATIONS ON MAY 14,
THE FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF THE SELF- IMMOLATION IN
KAUNAS OF
19- YEAR- OLD STUDENT ROMAN KALANTA. THE EVENT SPARKED ANTI-
SOVIET RIOTING WHICH CONTINUED THREE DAYS BEFORE ORDER WAS
RESTORED.

2. ACCORDING TO THE KITHUANIAN, NOT ONLY ARE MILITIAMEN
PATROLLING IN EXTRA STRENGTH IN KAUNAS, BUT SCHOOL TEACHERS
ARE BEING USED TO DIFFUSE ANTI- SOVIET FEELING BEFORE IT FLOWS
INTO THE STREETS. WHEN ATTACHE EXPRESSED VIEW THAT BASIS OF
OUTBREAKS LAST YEAR WAS RELIGIOUS SENTIMENT, I. E., STRONG
ROMAN CATHOLIC BELIEF, THE LITHUANIAN DISAGREED FIRMLY. HE
DECLARED THAT IT WAS PURELY POLITICAL PEHNOMENON. " DOWN WITH
SOVIET POWER." THE CENTRAL SLOGAN, WAS VERY EMBARRASSING TO
BREZHNEV BECAUSE THE DISTURBANCES COINCIDED WITH NIXON'S
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VISIT, OBSERVED THE LITHUANIAN.

3. COMMENT: WHILE WE HAVE NO WAY OF JUDGING RELIABILITY OF LITHUANIAN SOURCE, WHOM MILATT MET IN HOTEL DINING ROOM, WE FIND STORY PLAUSIBLE, GIVEN THE LEVEL OF DIFFICULTIES IN KAUNAS LAST MAY. IN THIS CONNECTION, SOVETSKAYA LITVA, APRIL 25, 26, REPORTS REPUBLICAN STUDENT RALLY IN VILNIUS, ADDRESSED BY LITHUANIAN PARTY SECRETARY BARKAUSKAS, MINISTER HIGHER AND SPECIAL SECONDARY EDUCATION ZABULIS AND LITHUANIAN KOMSOMOL FIRST SECRETARY MORKUNAS. WARNING AGAINST INFILTRATION OF BOURGEOIS IDEOLOGY AND ATTRACTION OF SOME STUDENTS TO VALUES OF WESTERN CULTURE, ZABULIS TOLD RALLY THAT VUZ LEVEL STUDENTS SHOULD ALREADY THOROUGHLY UNDERSTAND COMPLICATIONS OF IDEOLOGICAL STRUGGLE. WHEME OF MANY LESSER SPEAKERS WAS IDEOLOGICAL WORK AMONG STUDENTS. PARTY SECRETARY BARKAUSKAS ALSO ACCENTED IDEOLOGICAL TRAINING AND EMPHASIZED PRINCIPLES OF SOVIET PATRIOTISM AND SOCIALIST INTERNATIONALISM, AND RESPECT AND MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING FOR OTHER SOVIET PEOPLES. WHILE THESE THEMES HAVE OFTEN BEEN HEARD IN LITHUANIAN, TIMING OF THE RALLY AND FEATURED SPEAKERS SUGGEST NERVOUSNESS OF LITHUANIAN LEADERSHIP, ON THE EVE OF MAY 14 ANNIVERSARY, OVER IDEOLOGICAL RELIABILITY OF LITHUANIA' S 60,000 HIGHER SCHOOL (COLLEGE LEVEL) STUDENTS.
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